

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 SCEM-02 SCI-06 INT-08

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5041

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG BF

SUBJ: PETROLEUM REFINING IN THE CARIBBEAN

REF: STATE 245843

1. EMBASSY STILL AWAITING DATA REQUESTED REFTEL FROM BORCO REFINERY. BORCO HAS HAD TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM U.S. HEAD OFFICES OF ITS OWNERS, CHEVRON (SOCAL) AND NEW ENGLAND PETROLEUM, BEFORE THE DATA CAN BE GIVEN EMBASSY. IN CHECKING BAHAMIAN STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TO ATTEMPT OBTAIN 1972 IMPORT/EXPORT FIGURES, EMBASSY DISCOVERED THAT THE GCOB'S TATISTICS IN ERROR. THE GCOB KEEPS STATISTICS IN TERMS OF GALLONS. ITS COMPUTER CAN ONLY HANDLE UP TO NINE DIGITS AND OIL FIGURES GO BEYOND THAT NUMBER, SO ALL STATISTICS ARE INCORRECT.

2. REGARDING QUESTION F OF REFTEL, FOR THE PAST THREE TO FOUR MONTHS BORCO REFINERY HAS BEEN MAXIMIZING PRODUCTION OF DISTILLATES AND MINIMIZING OUTPUT OF HEAVY RESIDUALS. BORCO HAS ALSO MADE A DEAL WITH SHELL (BAHAMAS) AND WILL PRODUCE LIQUID PETROLEUM GAS FOR THE LOCAL MARKET BEGINNING IN MARCH.

3. BORCO HAS BEEN ETING LIBYAN CRUDE, BUT ACCORDING TO REPRESENTATIVE OF CHEVRON, THIS WILL STOP VERY SHORTLY. TWO REPORTERS FROM TIME MAGAZINE (JAY MALIN AND JIM BELL HAVE BEEN IN FREEPORT CHECKING ON THE FLOW OF OIL FROM LIBYA. THEY
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LEARNED FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN BORCO THAT 14 SHIPLOADS OF

LIBYAN CRUDE HAVE ARRIVED IN FREEPORT SINCE THE ARAB EMBARGO WENT INTO EFFECT. WHEN EMBASSY SUGGESTED THAT PUBLICATION OF STORY OF LIBYAN SHIPMENT MIGHT FORCE CUT OFF OF THIS SUPPLY, THE REPORTERS DISAGREED. THEY BELIEVE IT MIGHT PROMPT SAUDI ARABIA TO DROP THE EMBARGO.

4. BORCO HAS BEEN UNDER SOME PRESSURE FROM THE GCOB TO SUPPLY LOCAL NEEDS RELATED TO TOURISM -- JET FUEL AND BUNKER FUEL FOR HOTELS AND CRUISE SHIPS. BORCO SAYS THE AMOUNT WILL BE INSIGNIFICANT. THEY HAVE ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THEY WILL COMPLY TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE. FUEL WILL BE ALLOCATED FIRST TO THE NATIONAL FLAG AIRLINE BAHAMASIR, THEN TO THE INTERNATIONAL SCHEDULED CARRIERS, CHARTERS AND IF ANY IS LEFT TO GENERAL AVIATION.
SPIERS

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